



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto National Forest

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File Code: 1950/2720

Date: October 17, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Outfitter-Guide Priority Permit Issuance and Forest Plan Amendment to adjust Outfitter-Guide service day allocations is available for your review and comment. A No Action (Alternative 1) and a Proposed Action (Alternative 2) are being considered.

This project was designed to improve service to the recreating public, better manage the outfitter-guide permitting process, and be in compliance with recent changes in national direction. The alternatives and associated analysis can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/tonto or obtained from the Supervisor's Office, 2324 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ, 85006.

How to comment and timeframe

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for early and meaningful participation on the proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. Those who provide comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Arizona Capitol Times* (newspaper of record). Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written or oral comments may be submitted via mail or in-person to Greg Schuster, Supervisor's Office, 2324 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ, 85006. Comments may also be hand delivered during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays).



Comments may be faxed to:
ATTN: Outfitter-Guide Project Leader
(602) 225-5295

Comments may be e-mailed to:
comments-southwestern-tonto@fs.fed.us. Subject line should read: "Outfitter Guide Project."

If you have questions concerning this project, please contact Greg Schuster at (602) 225-5362.

Sincerely,

/s/ Neil J. Bosworth
NEIL J. BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor